

UNCLASSIFIED

8/27/76

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Page: 1

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 05609 271741Z

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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SCCT-01 EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 SS-15 PRS-01 FBIE-00 /043 W

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R 271540Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6868

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(☒) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part () In Full *DECLASSIFIED*

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 5609

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, AR
SUBJECT: FLOWER BOMBS, PACKAGE BOMBS

1. ON AUGUST 26, 1976, TWO INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED IN WHICH INDIVIDUALS RECEIVED BOOBY-TRAPPED FLOWERS. ONE OF THE VICTIMS WAS CHRISTINA ESMERONI, DAUGHTER OF BENITO ESMERONI, FORMER HEAD OF IBM. MISS ESMERONI RECEIVED AN ORCHID CONTAINED IN A TYPICAL SEE-THROUGH PLASTIC TOPPED FLOWER BOX WHICH EXPLODED WHEN SHE OPENED IT. THE SECOND FLOWER BOMB EXPLODED IN THE HOUSE OF A FRENCH EXECUTIVE REPRESENTING RENAULT AND ASTARSA COMPANIES. INJURIES AND DAMAGE IN THIS CASE ARE UNKNOWN. REPORTED INFORMATION INDICATES THAT CHRISTINA ESMERONI LOST BOTH HANDS.

2. IN ANOTHER REPORTED INCIDENT, A GIFT-WRAPPED PACKAGE CONTAINING A PEN AND PENCIL SET WAS SENT TO THE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS OF THE FORD COMPANY. COMPANY SECURITY PERSONNEL WERE SUSPICIOUS AND DETONATED THE PACKAGE WITHOUT INJURY.

3. RSO COMMENT: EOD SUPERVISOR GOA HAS BEEN CONTACTED AND HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO FURNISH INFORMATION CONCERNING QUANTITY OF EXPLOSIVES AND TRIGGERING OF FLOWER BOMBS. SUCH AS NOT BEEN RECEIVED. HE ADVISED THAT THE COMPOSITION OF THE EXPLOSIVES WAS PLASTIC. IN ADDITION, HE WAS UNABLE TO ADVISE WHETHER THE BOMBS HAD ACTUALLY BEEN IMPLANTED IN THE FLOWERS OR WERE A LETTER TYPE BOMB CONCEALED IN THE ENVELOPE NORMALLY

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 1

UNCLASSIFIED

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Current Class: [REDACTED]
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Document Number: 1976BUENOS05609

Page: 2

Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

[REDACTED]
PAGE 02 BUENOS 05609 271741Z

CONTAINING THE GREETING CARD OF THE SENDER. WHEN THE REQUESTED
INFORMATION IS RECEIVED, SUCH WILL BE REPORTED. A SECURITY
NOTICE IS BEING PUBLISHED CAUTIONING ALL POST PERSONNEL WITH
RESPECT TO THIS TERRORIST THREAT.
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Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 2

UNCLASSIFIED